

Submitter: Martin Blasco
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

Martín Blasco
Hillsboro, Oregon
May 1st, 2025 (International Workers' Day)

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

I am writing to express my support for SB 1098, and my strong opposition to the banning or removal of books from school libraries. The freedom to read, learn, and think critically is a foundational principle of a healthy democracy, and any attempt to restrict access to books undermines that principle.

Book bans are often justified under the guise of protecting children, but in reality, they limit students' opportunities to engage with diverse perspectives, challenge their thinking, and develop empathy. Literature offers a mirror to see ourselves and a window to see others. Silencing certain voices—especially those of marginalized communities—only fosters ignorance and division.

I urge you to trust teachers, librarians, and educational professionals who are trained to select age-appropriate, meaningful materials that foster discussion and critical thinking.

I ask that you uphold the values of intellectual freedom, resist censorship, and ensure that all readers have access to a wide range of literature. Our communities, and especially our young people, deserve the right to explore ideas freely.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Martín Blasco, Public Librarian